

REMARKS

We have made a minor correction to certain dependent claims which erroneously referred to “the telematics system” when in fact claim 1 only refers to “a system.” To address this antecedent basis problem, we have deleted the reference to “telematics” in the appropriate dependent claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0198473 to Kumar et al. (Kumar) in view of U.S. Patent 6,537,2254 to Mills.

Kumar describes several Internet-based systems for relaying vital sign information from a patient to a network, but makes no mention of a “web services interface,” as defined in detail by our application and recited in our claims (see, e.g., paragraphs [23] and [26] in our published application, and pending claims 2-11 and 13-17).

In addition, Kumar’s Internet-based system integrates with a generic blood pressure monitor that is far removed from our claimed system. Our claimed system features a finger-worn optical sensor and wrist-worn processor that continuously measures blood pressure without using a conventional cuff. Once blood pressure information is determined, our system sends it through both wireless and web service-based interfaces to external computer systems. The Examiner relies on Mills to describe a blood pressure monitor with all the features recited in our claims.

But, we note that Mills actually says nothing about a blood pressure monitor that features an optical sensor adapted to be worn on a patient’s finger that connects through a cable to a blood pressure monitor adapted to be worn on a patient’s wrist. Mills admittedly describes a finger-worn sensor but makes no mention of a wrist-worn component. Mills simply describes a generic collection of electronics (e.g. A/D converter, signal processor, display, as shown in Figs. 11-15) and lacks any indication that they are intended to be worn on the patient’s body, let alone the wrist. So, even when combined with Kumar, the resulting system fails to include our claimed blood pressure monitor, which as described above is completely body-worn, and features a measurement that when

combined with a web services interface can effectively and continuously monitor a patient's blood pressure.

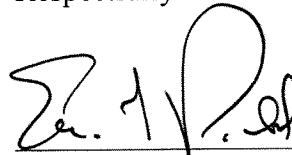
We further note that the Examiner's secondary references, Northrup and Lynn, also make no mention of a blood pressure monitor featuring optical, wrist-worn, or finger-worn components, and thus fail to cure the deficiencies of Kumar and Mills.

For at least the reasons stated above, we believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, and therefore ask the Examiner to allow them to issue.

Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219, under Order No. 0114079.00144US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric L. Prah", written over a horizontal line.

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